



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/622,859	07/17/2003	Robert A. Luciano	732.749	2914

7590 05/24/2004
Paul C Craane
Marshall Gerstein & Borun LLP
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606-6357

EXAMINER

MARKS, CHRISTINA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3713

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

28

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/622,859	Applicant(s) LUCIANO ET AL.	
	Examiner C. Marks	Art Unit 3713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 states that the disks have a band of indicia thereon and later compare the peripheral region to the diameter of the indicia which has never been properly defined. There are multiple ways that bands of indicia can be mounted and created in the art with all of them not necessarily resulting in the same length even if on the same reel. The band of indicia is not positively linked to a structure part wherein it is a definite recitation of its properties.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

Art Unit: 3713

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (US Patent No. 5,108,349).

Yamamoto discloses a gaming apparatus wherein a plurality of disks have a common axis of rotation (FIG 3) and each disk is separately rotatable. Each disk has a band of indicia thereon (Column 3, lines 41-47) and has a peripheral region, which is greater diameter than the band of indicia (FIG 1 and FIG 2). There is an annular band of gear teeth at the peripheral region (FIG 2). There is a plurality of drive gears (FIG 2, reference 6 and 8) in the form of pulleys wherein through the indicia band are engaged with the band of gear teeth of the rotatable disk (FIG 2). Each reel has its own drive motor that engages the pulley gears to turn (FIG 3). Even though Yamamoto discloses pulleys as the drive gears, they still serve to function in the same manner as the engage the gear teeth of the rotatable disks. The actual substitution of gears over the pulleys would be a design choice obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art who would be motivated by the fact that there are already notches to engage and the substitution of gears would require less mechanical parts. However, the ultimate choose resides in the wants and needs of the designer hence using one over another is a choice.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. 4,838,554: Rotatable disks with engagement surface of equal diameter to the indicia bands.

US Patent No. 5,836,819: see FIG 63 designated as prior art wherein the engagement surfaces are on the outer edge of the reel.

Art Unit: 3713

US Patent No. 4,427,196: Gaming machine with the gear engagement on the outer edge of the band of indicia.

US Patent No. 5,553,851: Gaming device of reel machine with an alternate setup to rotate the reels.

US Patent No. 4,732,386: Game chance wherein reels on the outer perimeter are engaged in a manner that is of greater diameter than their indicia via a drive gear.

US Patent No. 5,954,422: Drive assembly that has a strip of indicia and gear engagement surfaces near the strip.

US Patent No. 4,773,648: Slot machine with engagement fears that are near the band of indicia.

US Patent No. 4,509,754: Gaming machine with engagement means at the same position as indicia band.

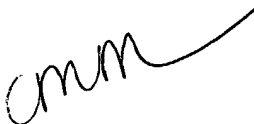
US Patent No. 4,066,264: Gaming machine with the rotatable reels being engaged at a greater diameter than the indicia.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Marks whose telephone number is (703)-305-7497. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday (7:30AM - 5:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teresa J Walberg can be reached on (703)-308-1327. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3713

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



cmm

May 17, 2004



JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER